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Projectile Co. Has Corner On Shrapnel Fied

Further Details of Sweeping Contracts in German Interests Disclosed Through Trial of Sensational Suit in New Jersey Court.

Contract Cancelled Day After it Was Signed Has Big Shrapnel Machinery Product of Camden Works Tied Up to Jan. 1, Next.

How Bridgeport, the "Eisen of America," has been selected by the German government as the rival in the United States of the Teutonic munitions manufacturing center, not only for making war supplies, but for the Kaiser, but to cripple the Allied sources of munitions is being brought out in an astonishing series of statements before Justice Halght, in the United States district court for New Jersey.

How the shrapnel supply of the United States is being tied up by the Bridgeport Projectile Co. through the working of German agents, is being brought out in a sensational manner before the public in the hearing.

A contract signed by Walter H. Knight, president of the Bridgeport Projectile Co., and by Carl Heyman, agent of Hugo Schmidt, the western representative of the Deutsche Bank of Berlin, and formerly agent at Mexico City of the Hamburg-American Steamship Co., is the document that is causing the veil to be drawn aside.

The contract was between the Bridgeport Projectile Co. and the Camden Iron Works, now in receivership. As a result of the manner in which it was manipulated, the Camden company, the largest manufacturer of shrapnel presses in the United States, is idle and hasn't sold a press in months although Russia, France and England are clamoring for them.

The contract is characterized as "bogus." It called for 100 sets of press at a total cost of \$50,000 and restricted the company from selling to any other person or firm than the Bridgeport Projectile Co.

The Projectile Co. hasn't received one of the presses. Twelve hours after the contract was signed it was cancelled. According to the Camden company, the Camden works was to get a forfeit in that event. The forfeit was \$167,000 and the company received it. For the thousand dollars was taken out of this for selling agents' commissions. For the \$125,000 left, Jennings Lippincott, receiver of the company is suing Walter Wood, president of the Camden Iron Works. He contends the money belongs to the creditors. Mr. Wood had kept the \$125,000.

On paper the proposition, including the demands of the contract and the cancellation looked all right. However, a secret agreement had been

PROPOSED STRIKE OF DECKHANDS TO TIE UP SHIPPING

Local Boatmen Meet Tonight to Discuss Demands For Better Conditions.

A movement which threatens to tie up shipping in the local harbor should ship owners refuse to comply with the demands asked them, was made this morning when the deckhands on oyster boats, schooners, barges, tugs and other crafts in the harbor, held a meeting and decided to join the union now being formed by deck hands along the Atlantic coast.

Their demands for more money and less hours will be presented to their employers tonight and if they are not met with by Saturday all deckhands will leave the boats on that night. The committee which will meet the employers this evening have no specific demands as to how much shorter their hours must be or how much more money they wish.

The deck hands employed about Chesapeake Bay have been on strike for the past two weeks and the unionizing movement is said to be rapidly spreading along the coast from Maine to Florida. Most of the other men employed on the boats are affiliated with other unions so that it is only the deckhands that are concerned.

They have already organized in New Haven and are planning to go out on strike tonight if their demands are not granted.

The strike of most of the men along the coast is that they have to work from 12 to 15 hours per day for \$10 or \$12 a week and that their wives and daughters, many of whom are employed as oyster openers are able to earn practically as much money at that occupation and do not have to work nearly so many hours a day.

Not so many women are employed as oyster openers about Bridgeport as about New Haven and Norwalk where the industry is quite an important one.

Should the hands strike on Saturday, and should they not bring the boats back to their docks they can be arrested on charges of mutiny.

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THE WEATHER

Partly cloudy tonight and Thursday. Not much change in temperature; moderate west winds.

TWO WIDOWS CLAIM SHELTON DURING HEARING

Railroad Victim's Compensation Wanted By Duo Wearing Weeds.

COURT PUZZLED BY UNEXPECTED MIX-UP

Parents Also Put in Bid For Money Obtained From New Haven Road.

Two women who say they are his wives, and his parents lay claim to the \$2,500 which Attorney Frederick E. Morgan has procured from the New Haven road as compensation for the death of George Henry Shelton, formerly employed as a railroad brakeman, who was killed in Bridgeport on Shelton street, was killed on the night of Sept. 9, this year, by being crushed against part of the viaduct near the South End freight yards while engaged in coupling a train. He was considered an expert man in his business and was often sent on long runs through this and other states.

Helen May Shelton, with whom he lived here, claims to be his first and only wife and as such has petitioned the probate court for all of his estate. There are no children. The petition was filed Sept. 17. Shortly afterward, however, Forester Shepard of New Haven filed a claim for Lena Shelton of Towanda, Pa., and also for Shelton's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Shelton, who lives in the same town. They claim that Shelton formerly lived in that town, that he visited there as frequently as his work would allow and Lena Shelton claims she was married to the railroad man long before the death of the woman who is now claiming his estate.

Attorney Morgan obtained the money by action under the Federal Employers' Liability act which makes an employer liable for the safety of his employee if he is passing from one state to another. It is claimed that the handles on the freight car which Shelton attempted to board while in motion were not properly attached and this caused Shelton's death. Attorney Morgan as conservator first asked the railroad company for \$3,500 and later for \$2,500.

When Atty. Morgan was appointed administrator objection was promptly filed by Mrs. Lena Shelton and the parents of Mr. Shelton on the ground that neither person living in their town should have been named. Judge Miller over-ruled the objection and named Atty. Morgan, E. L. Rhodes and Ethel M. Lee were named as appraisers. The hearing was still on at press hour.

GORDON PROTESTS EVENING EVICTIONS BY SHERIFF DELIA

Superintendent of Charities Says He Will Test Legality of Practice.

Superintendent Spencer R. Gordon and other officials of the local Charities department are perturbed over the action of Sheriff Daniel Delia in evicting families from their tenements late in the evening. This has been performed by the sheriff many times in the last few weeks.

A squad of men under the supervision of Sheriff Delia placed the furniture of James Schinnack of Benham avenue and Pequonnock street on the sidewalk shortly after 5 o'clock last night. The sheriff later communicated the fact to the Charities department and asked that the furniture be removed to Lakeview home as it was interfering with traffic.

Investigator Alexander Morriasey was located and he ordered an expressman to move the furniture to Lakeview home. The moving was not completed until nearly midnight and the bill, which will have to be met by the Charities department, will be doubled owing to the fact that the work was done after sundown.

Superintendent Gordon was indignant when interviewed concerning the matter today. He said that this is not the first time that Sheriff Delia has performed such evictions, thereby making it inconvenient for the officials of the Charities department and also compelling the city to pay double for the transportation of furniture to Lakeview home. Mr. Gordon said that it is his intention to inquire as to the legality of such acts and that at the next meeting of the Common Council he will recommend creating a city ordinance preventing such procedure after sundown.

Fire Sweeps Big Providence Plant Busy on War Goods

Providence, Nov. 17.—One thousand bales of cotton in the East Providence warehouse of the River Spinning Co., was destroyed by fire today. The company, it was stated, had contracted to supply Allies with a specially prepared product, to be used in the preparation of gun cotton. The origin of the fire is undetermined. The loss was estimated at \$50,000.

New York, Nov. 17.—The Atlas Powder company today declared extra dividend of 1-2 per cent. on the common stock in addition to the regular quarterly dividend of 1-2 per cent. payable Dec. 10. The total dividends declared on the common stock for this year now amount to 11 1-2 per cent.

CURTIS PATENTS MACHINERY FOR MAKING SHELLS

Bridgeport Manufacturer's Device Meets Demands of War Orders.

BIG ORDERS SAID TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN

Machine May Be Used For Both Large and Small Tubings.

A novel and expeditious method of cutting pipe or other circular bodies has been devised by Lewis B. Curtis, 250 Waldemere avenue, president and treasurer of the Curtis & Curtis Company on Garden street.

The device which has been in operation in this city for some months has just received the sanction of the government and patents today have been issued to Mr. Curtis for his invention. It is said that the necessity for automatically cutting tubing for both large and small shell forms in use for shrapnel shell making caused the larger munition companies to ask many well known machinery firms to devise something that would do the work more expeditiously than the hand methods previously in vogue.

Mr. Curtis, whose knowledge of mechanics is deeply founded, and whose close relationship to the pipe industry has been of long standing, is the successful inventor and will receive the big orders that will naturally accrue from munition making concerns. It is believed that the local munitions plant has already placed large orders for the building of machines, but owing to the war and fast rules regarding secrecy in their work no confirmation can be obtained from any of the parties interested.

The device as outlined by Mr. Curtis in his application for patent shows two tubular sleeves operating within each other. These are so actuated by a cam groove and a lug that a set of jaws are depressed in a rotary movement of the sleeves. The tubing to be cut is automatically forced forward with a complete turn of the cam which releases the cutting jaws that again begin their action on the newly presented pipe surface.

The Curtis & Curtis Company have recently through the effort of its president recorded several modern inventions that have become features in the mechanical world. Among these may be mentioned a drilling press which reverses the usual principle of a twisting drill shank by rotation of the object being drilled. This device has special application to certain lines of munition work and is said to have increased the output as well as reducing the cost of the operations.

Other Bridgeporters awarded patents yesterday were Gilbert W. Goodridge, chain guide for pull switches; Anker S. Lynne, pocket flash-light and case for light; Jasper C. Owens, carpet-stretcher and Bernard E. Skelly, intermittent operating mechanism for lubricators.

OWNERS OF ITNEY BUSES MUST PAINT NUMBERS ON AUTOS

Removable Coloring Won't Do Say Police and Arrests Are Ordered.

A police crusade that will be far reaching was begun this morning by Motorcycle Policeman Clifford N. Gorgan this morning as the victims of the crusade will be Itney owners who have failed to paint their license number properly in white lead on the sides and rear of the machine.

Several owners have applied the number with water colored paint in order to be able to wash it off when they want to use the car as a pleasure machine.

Drivers of Itneys who fail to display their license badge properly and also some who have not procured the necessary badges will be arrested. The crusade was begun upon orders from Superintendent Eugene Birmingham upon complaint of Clerk Clayton L. Smith who is in charge of the department that issues the licenses and badges to Itney drivers and owners.

CAPTAIN BOND'S WIDOW IS SOLE HEIR TO \$20,000

(Special to The Farmer)
Stratford, Nov. 17.—Capt. John C. Bond's widow, Julia E. Bond, is the sole beneficiary of the estate according to the terms of the will filed today in the Stratford probate court. The estate is estimated at about \$20,000. The widow is named executrix. Captain John C. Bond, veteran sportsman and world famous trainer of boxer, died last Thursday at his home on the banks of the Housatonic. For years he had a training quarters in Stratford and it was here that many of the famous boxers trained for their championship bouts. Besides his widow, Capt. Bond is survived by a brother, Ashbel O. Bond, 616 Sixth street, Bridgeport. The will was drawn Dec. 26, 1907.

SUPERDREADNAUGHT BIDS EXCEED LIMIT

Washington, Nov. 17.—None of the bids by private shipyards for construction of the dreadnaughts authorized by the last congress submitted to the navy today, fell within the limit of \$7,800,000 fixed as the maximum cost of the hull and machinery of each ship.

BULGARIAN SWEEP THROUGH SERBIA THREATENS TO FLANK FRENCH AND SERBS; MONASTIR ROAD IS OPENED

RAILROADS AND SHIPPING CLOGGED BY RUSH OF WAR MUNITIONS TO THE OCEAN

New York, Nov. 17.—Congestion of freight in and around New York has become so great as to cause shippers and transportation companies serious concern. It is attributed mainly to the rush of foodstuffs and war munitions for shipment to the belligerent nations. It was stated today that one railroad has upwards of 7,000 loaded cars blocked between Pittsburgh and this city and that several hundred freight cars with locomotive parts and railway equipment for Russia are included in the blockade.

The president of one of the large eastern railroads said today that the congestion is the worst within his memory. Some of the freight must be distributed to southern ports or to Canada and vessels from other ports must be rushed to New York to take on the freight, he said.

Exports of all kinds from New York last week were valued at \$50,548,070, an increase of more than \$3,000,000 over the preceding week.

PITTSBURGH UNABLE TO MAKE HAND BOMBS

Pittsburgh, Nov. 17.—Agents of the government have been trying for several days to place an order here for 9,000,000 hand grenades but it was said by steel men today that they have met with little success, manufacturers, who have never made that sort of thing, not caring to experiment at this time.

More foreign agents are now in the Pittsburgh district trying to buy steel products than at any other time in the history of the city. Shipments to China have been unusually large the past few weeks.

ALABAMA TO HAVE HUGE WAR MUNITIONS PLANT

Anniston, Ala., Nov. 17.—Formation of a million dollar corporation to be known as the Anniston Ordnance Manufacturing Co. to manufacture war munitions and steel for electrical concerns, was announced here today by officials of the Alabama Power Co. It was stated that a contract to supply war munitions already had been accepted from J. P. Morgan & Co., and that work would begin at an early date, the local concern taking over a car equipment plant here for that purpose.

ILLINOIS STEEL CO. TO BUILD BIG ADDITION

Joliet, Ill., Nov. 17.—Ground was broken here yesterday by the Illinois Steel Co. for an \$800,000 building to be operated in connection with the coke oven and by-product department of the corporation.

A benzol laboratory for the manufacture of dyes will be in operation here in 90 days, it was announced. An effort will be made to replace the supply of dyes, mostly German, cut off by the war.

U. S. SUES TEN INSURANCE COMPANIES AND TWO BANKS IN HARTFORD ON TAX CLAIMS

Hartford, Nov. 17.—Ten insurance companies and two banks in Hartford have been sued by the United States government for taxes. Complaints were filed from the office of District Attorney Thomas J. Spellacy show a sum aggregating \$20,218.42 with interest from the date of the filing of the complaint. The suits are against the Aetna Life Insurance Co., the Aetna Accident & Liability Co., the Travelers' Indemnity Co., the Connecticut General Insurance Co., the Phoenix Insurance Co., the Orient Insurance Co., the Hartford Fire Insurance Co., the Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Co., the First National bank of Hartford and the Connecticut Trust & Safe Deposit Co.

The government claims the amounts due for additional corporation taxes in the years 1909, 1910 and 1911, with an addition of a 50-per cent. penalty for their not being paid on demand. Under the state law the insurance companies and banks pay to the state treasurer a tax of 1 per cent. annually on the market value of each share of stock as determined by the state board of equalization, a deduction from this value being allowed to the amount of taxes paid on real estate in Connecticut by the company. Under the federal corporation law passed in 1908, which taxes corporations 1 per cent. on their net income above \$5,000, it is provided that ... making returns of net income to the commissioners of internal revenue corporations can deduct from their gross income taxes paid to the state or municipalities.

Five companies involved in the suits claim the 1 per cent. paid to the state on the market value of the stock is a tax on the corporation. The government claims it is not and is a tax on the shareholders, paid by the companies. This is one of the principal issues in the case.

Another big question in the litigation is that the commission of internal revenue is not to assess the additional taxes until after the three years as provided by law for amending returns had elapsed.

WILSON URGES FAR PLAY FOR JOE HILLSTROM

Wires to Governor of Utah Recommendation of Thor-ough Consideration.

Washington, Nov. 17.—President Wilson urged Governor Spry of Utah today to reconsider the case of Joseph Hillstrom, a Swedish citizen, sentenced to death next Friday for murder. The President sent to Governor Spry the following telegram: "With unaffected hesitation but with a very earnest conviction of the importance of the case I again venture to urge upon your excellency the justice and advisability of a thorough reconsideration of the case of Joseph Hillstrom."

Hillstrom, in whose behalf the President appealed to Governor Spry at the request of the Swedish minister several weeks ago on the ground that Hillstrom had not had a fair trial, was active in affairs of the Industrial Workers of the World. He was respected but eventually resentenced. The American Federation of Labor, in convention in San Francisco, asked clemency for Hillstrom.

Paris, Nov. 17.—Great Britain has requested the Spanish government to keep a strict watch along its coastline, especially that of Morocco, to prevent violations of neutrality by German agents who are believed to be supplying submarines with fuel and food at night, says the Journal's Madrid correspondent.

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Greek Shipping Tied Up in British Ports to Force Greece to Make More Favorable Agreement With Entente Allies on Treatment of Armies That May Be Forced to Take Up Quarters on Greek Soil.

London, Nov. 17.—The fate of the Serbian army may be only a matter of hours. Monastir, in southwest Serbia, is reported to be in such peril that the consular officials have departed from the city. From the various conflicting reports which have been received, the following apparently may be deduced as facts:

The Bulgarians have taken Krusevo and are six miles west of Perlepe. Thus the southern Serbian army with its French allies are confronted with the imminent peril of an outflanking movement.

Tetovo is in the hands of the Bulgarians. The fate of the Serbians holding Babuna has become obscure. One report states that the pass had been forced. It seems certain that the defenders are at least threatened so seriously that their position soon may be untenable.

With Krusevo and Babuna in the hands of the invaders the fate of Perlepe would be sealed and the way to Monastir opened.

While the military situation seems darker from the standpoint of the entente allies, the phase of their near eastern venture is somewhat more favorable. Greece is giving some indication that she is seeking a solution of the problem which would be presented if entente troops should take refuge on Grecian territory. It is clear that the entente powers are bringing considerable pressure to bear on Greece, not the least of which is England's detention in home ports of a fleet of Greek merchantmen.

Greek shipping is making enormous profits out of the war, and even a temporary check of its activities would mean a great loss.

Along the eastern front interest centers on the attempted re-crossing of the Styra, where the Austrians and Germans claim an important success. Petrograd reports merely admit Austro-German occupation of the village of Podgale, about five miles from the river and a slight advance east of that place. It is asserted the advantage gained by the Teutonic forces in this region is due to the arrival of reinforcements from other sections of the eastern front and heavy artillery brought up by railroad.

From the conflicting reports it may be seen that the east bank of the Styra is held by the Russians, while the battle for the crossing is still undecided. Reports from the western front indicate that military activities there are limited to rather general artillery exchanges.

ANGLO FRENCH SITUATION IN THE BALKANS HOPELESS, SAYS MORAHT

Amsterdam, Nov. 17.—Continuing his criticism of the Anglo-French operations in the Balkans, Major Morah, the military critic, says in the Berlin Tageblatt:

"From a military point of view never before has an expeditionary army which came over the sea and relied on an insecure base for its operations, run such a risk."

He regards the situation as hopeless for the allies, even if able to send 150,000 troops to the Balkans, and declares the destruction of Serbia will only be somewhat delayed.

Dual Monarchy's Offer of Separate Peace Was Not Welcome in Italy

Rome, Nov. 17.—Proposals for a separate peace were made by Italy to Austria at the time the recent Italian offensive was begun, the Popolo Italia, asserts. The paper declares certain territorial concessions were offered to Italy but that the Salandra cabinet refused to consider them.

SEATTLE MINE VICTIMS WILL GET INSURANCE

Seattle, Wash., Nov. 17.—Rescue parties which labored in mine shafts all night are still at work today endeavoring to recover the bodies of 25 men buried under tons of debris in the third level of the Northwestern Improvement Co.'s coal mine at Ravensdale, 35 miles southeast of Seattle. An explosion yesterday killed 31 men and injured three others.

The force of the explosion blew down timbers and supports all through the mine and rescuers were compelled to build new supports as they cleared away the wreckage. Expert rescuers from government stations were rushed to Ravensdale to assist in the rescue work. After entering the third level where Foreman Kane's body was found, the oxygen helmet men announced that there was no doubt that all still in the mine were dead.

Approximately \$124,000, it is said, will be paid from the state industrial insurance fund to the families of the miners who lost their lives in the disaster. The law gives \$4,000 for each married man and a lesser amount for single men. Only seven of the 31 who lost their lives were single.

A temperance convention to make Indiana dry opened at Indianapolis.

FOUR WAR—CARDINAL VON HARTMANN WILL ATTEND CONSISTORY

Rome, Nov. 17.—Cardinal Von Hartmann, Archbishop of Cologne, will arrive here soon to remain for the consistory in December. It was officially stated at the Vatican today. This announcement, following the statement that Cardinal Mercier, primate of Belgium, also will at-

temperance convention to make Indiana dry opened at Indianapolis.